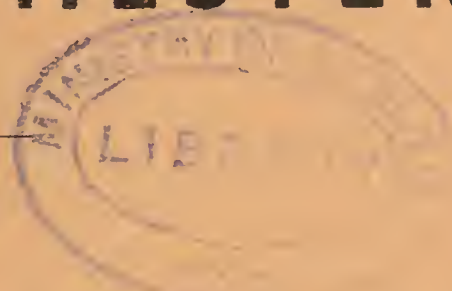


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**BOROUGH of  
GODMANCHESTER**



**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH  
UPON THE  
SANITARY CONDITIONS of the  
DISTRICT  
DURING YEAR 1954



## TO THE GODMANCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL

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MR. MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1954.

The general health of the Borough is satisfactory and examination of the vital statistics bears out this impression. The birth rate is above the average for England and Wales and shows an increase over last year's figure. The death rate, however, is also above the average for England and Wales and shows a small increase as compared with last year—actually there were only three more deaths in 1954 than there were in 1953. During the year there were three deaths of infants under one year and when this is weighed against the actual number of live births the infant mortality rate appears alarmingly high. No real significance can be attached to this rate, derived as it is from such small numbers covering only one year. In common with the country as a whole, the most frequent cause of death in the Borough is due to cardiovascular disease—the next cause, in order of incidence is cancer.

Yet again there was no case of either Poliomyelitis or Diphtheria in Godmanchester. Following the Poliomyelitis epidemic in 1953 Diphtheria Immunisation has re-commenced and the number of children immunised in 1954 rose to 175.

During the year the Council obtained tenders for a comprehensive Sewerage Scheme for the Borough. This is a long overdue necessity and will be welcomed by all concerned.

A number of properties in close proximity to a mains supply continue to use private wells. Quite a number of properties are still supplied by a communal stand pipe in the yard. Main water continues to be of a satisfactory character.

Night soil collection is carried out from over 300 dwellings. Disposal is by crude tipping.

During the year, work commenced on site works and on 20 unity houses. The number of applicants on the waiting list remains high and continual efforts to build more houses should be maintained in order to put into effect the Ministry of Housing and Local Government's policy on Slum Clearance.

In conclusion I should like to thank members of the Council for their kindness and consideration to me during the year, and to all officers of the Council for their never failing help and co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. CALDWELL.

## Staff

### *Medical Officer of Health :*

J. CALDWELL, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P. & S., D.P.H.

### *Sanitary Inspector :*

C. W. PARCELL, A.R.SAN.I.

## Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area	...	...	...	...	...	4,956 acres
Estimated Population (Mid 1953)	...	...	...	...	2,413	
			(Mid 1954)	...	...	2,420
Number of Inhabited Houses (end 1954 per Rate Book)	...	...	...	...	761	
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£11,164	
Value of Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£44 5s.	

## Vital Statistics

LIVE BIRTHS	M.	F.	Total		
Legitimate	35	8	43	Birth rate per 1,000	
Illegitimate	—	2	2	estimated population	18.6
				(Ditto for England	
Total	35	10	45	and Wales) ...	15.2

STILL BIRTHS	M.	F.	Total		
Legitimate	—	1	1	Rate per 1,000 Total	
Illegitimate	—	—	—	(Live and Still) Births	21.7
				(Ditto for England	
Total	—	1	1	and Wales) ...	23.4

	M.	F.	Total		
DEATHS (all ages)	14	18	32	Death rate per 1,000	
				estimated population	13.2
				(Ditto for England	
				and Wales) ...	11.3

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR					M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Total					2	1	3

#### DEATH RATES OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	66.7
(Ditto for England and Wales)	...	...	...	25.5
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	46.5
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	500

#### Causes of Death (Registrar-General's List)

List No.	Cause					Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	—	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	—	—
3.	Syphilitic	...	...	...	...	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—
5.	Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	1	—
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	—	—
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	—	—
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	—	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	2	2
15.	Leukæmia, aleukæmia	...	...	...	...	—	1
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	—	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	1	2
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	4	1
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	—	—
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	1	6
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	—	—
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	—	—
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	—	1
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	—	—
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	—	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	—	—



28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	—	—
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	—	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	1	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	2	2
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	—	—
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	1	1
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	1	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	—	—
Total all causes ...					14	18

### General Provision of Health Services for the Area

#### (a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The following laboratory facilities have been available to this Authority and to General Practitioners in the Area :—

Public Health Laboratory Service, Tennis Court Road,  
Cambridge. Tel. Cambridge 55526.

Public Analyst (S. Greenburgh, Ph.D., B.Sc., F.R.I.C.)  
Tenison Road, Cambridge. Tel. Cambridge 2097.

#### (b) AMBULANCE SERVICES.

- (i) Ambulances administered by the County Ambulance Service run in conjunction with the County Fire Service have been available on doctor's orders.

(Tel. Huntingdon 348).

- (ii) An ambulance stationed at Huntingdon Isolation Hospital has been available for cases of infectious disease.

(Tel. Huntingdon 59).

#### (c) HOME NURSING.

A Nurse/Midwife residing in Godmanchester (Tel. Huntingdon 609) employed and supervised by the Huntingdon County Council carried out Home Nursing and attended Maternity Cases in the Borough.

#### (d) CLINICS—*See over*

(i) The following health services are provided by the Huntingdonshire County Council.

Clinics.	Patients Seen.	When Held	Where Held
MINOR AILMENTS.	Schoolchildren.	Every Mon. 9-30 to 10-30 a.m.	Old Grammar School, Huntingdon.
INFANT WELFARE	Children (0-5 years)	Every Tues. 2-4 p.m.	do.
DENTAL	Pre-School and Schoolchildren Pre-natal and Nursing Mothers	Every Wed. (except 2nd in month) & every Sat. 10 a.m. - 12 noon (by appointment)	10, Princes Street, Huntingdon

(ii) The following Health Services are now the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board and are administered on an agency basis by the Huntingdonshire County Council:

OPHTHALMIC	Pre-School and Schoolchildren	1st & 3rd Fridays in the mth. (By appointment except in emergency) 10-30 a.m. to 12 noon 2 to 4 p.m.	Old Grammar School Huntingdon
ORTHOPAEDIC	Pre-School and Schoolchildren	2nd & 4th Tuesdays in month ( <i>By appointment</i> ) 10 a.m. to 12 noon.	do.

(iii) The following Health Services are provided by the Regional Hospital Board.

Clinics.	Patients Seen.	When Held	Where Held
CHEST	All ages	Every Thursday 10 a.m. to 12 noon	County Hospital, Huntingdon.
VENEREAL DISEASES	All cases.	<div> <div> Mondays 3 to 7 p.m. Wed. 4 to 6.30 p.m. </div> <div> Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge </div> </div>	
	<div> <div>MALES :</div> <div> Mondays 5.30 to 7 p.m. Wednesdays 5.30 to 7 p.m. </div> </div> <div> <div>FEMALES:</div> <div> Tuesdays 10.30 to 12 noon Thursdays 5.30 to 7 p.m. </div> </div>	<div> <div>Out-Patient Department, Memorial Hospital, Peterborough.</div> </div>	



Medical, Surgical, Orthopædic, Pædiatric, Skin, Obstetrical, Gynæcological and Dental Out-Patient Clinics are held at Huntingdon County Hospital and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, to which General Practitioners can refer their patients for specialist investigation.

(e) HOSPITAL SERVICES.

*Fever.* Huntingdon Isolation Hospital provides facilities for the investigation and treatment of infectious diseases.

*General Hospital Services* are provided by the County Hospital, Huntingdon, and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

*Maternity Cases* can be admitted to Paxton Park Maternity Home, St. Neots. Admissions are arranged through the County Medical Officer.

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## CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

					<i>Total Cases Notified</i>
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	3
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	3
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	2
Acute Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	11
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	—
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—
Chicken Pox	...	...	...	...	1
Infective Hepatitis	...	...	...	...	1

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

During the year the number of children immunised was as follows:—

Age at Date of Immunisation	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total
Primary Immunisation	24	17	6	2	3	9	—	61
Secondary or Reinforcing Injection	—	—	—	—	9	91	14	114

The following table gives in detail the Diphtheria Immunisation state within the District  
of children up to the age of 15 years.

Age at 31/12/54 i.e. Born in Year	Under 1 1954	1-4 1953-1950	5-9 1949-1945	10-14 1944-1940	Under 15 Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster)					
A. 1950—1954	5	126	186	111	428
B. 1949 or earlier	—	—	73	119	192

## Tuberculosis

Total No. on Register at 31st December, 1954 ... 17

Pulmonary ... 16      Non-Pulmonary ... 1

Age Periods.	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...								
1 ...								
5 ...								
10 ...								
15 ...	1							
20 ...								
25 ...	1							
35 ...								
45 ...								
55 ...								
65 and upwards								
Total	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

## SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT — 1954

### Housing

During the year the erection of 20 Unity Houses was commenced but there was no private building. The Council's list of applicants for houses was reviewed in August, when the number of renewed applications (including the occupants of requisitioned property) was 63. Two requisitioned properties were released during the year.

Preliminary inspections have been carried out with a view to improving some of the Council's pre-war houses by the provision of modern amenities such as bathrooms, etc.

A preliminary survey has also been commenced of premises unfit for habitation and for inclusion in a comprehensive Slum Clearance Scheme.

### Caravan Sites

One licence has been issued under the Public Health Act, 1936, for the use of land for movable dwellings. This site is satisfactory but if further dwellings are placed on this land further measures will be necessary for its effective control. One licence has been issued to the occupier of a caravan and other caravans have been used within the Borough under the exemption clauses of Section 269 of the Public Health Act.

### Water Supply

The mains supply, bulk purchased from Huntingdon Borough, remains satisfactory. The quality is supervised by the producer but routine samples taken within the Borough, with one exception, proved satisfactory. Efforts are being made to supply water to more of the outlying premises. At the moment a number of premises depend upon wells.

	Mains supply direct	Mains supply standpipe	Well water
Estimated number of dwellings supplied	478	182	114
Estimated population supplied	1,600	650	250

The daily average water consumption has risen but can only be estimated at 70,000 gallons or 28 gallons per head per day, as the meter was removed for overhaul.

## **Refuse Collection and Disposal**

The collection of household refuse continues as a weekly service. The Cambridge Road tip has been filled and refuse is now tipped on the London Road tip. This is too close to the main highway for crude tipping and is quite often on fire.

## **Sewerage Disposal**

The existing system continues to flow by means of continual clearing and flushing of the open dykes and brick barrel sewers.

No new connections have been made during the year although one existing earth closet was converted to water and connected to existing drains on the premises.

Bi-weekly collections of night soil have continued from 324 dwellings. This is disposed of by crude tipping on part of London Road tip. It was necessary to obtain a new trailer for this work.

## **Street Cleansing**

Difficulty was experienced for part of the year in obtaining sufficient labour to maintain the cleanliness of streets and highways. Approximately 3.5 miles of County and 1.5 miles of Borough roads are swept by 2 employees.

## **River**

The Bathing-place remained closed and owing to the poor summer, little river bathing took place.

The sluice gates enabled efficient control to be kept of river levels on most occasions. When floods occurred at times of high tides, little could be done to keep levels down.

## **Food and Drugs Act**

This Authority's duties under sections 9—18, 21(2), 31, 37—39 were transferred to Huntingdonshire County Council on 17th January, 1940, and are still administered by them.

During the year the Government control of meat supplies was terminated and as a result of applications made, one slaughterman's licence and one licence for the use of premises as a slaughterhouse, were issued.



## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

### Public Health Act, 1936

(a) Number of inspections made during the year (including re-inspections) ...	464
(b) Number of notices served during the year—	
1. Informal ... ..	25
2. Statutory ... ..	Nil
Result of such notices :—	
1. Informal notices complied with ... ..	25
2. Statutory notices complied with ... ..	Nil

### Housing Act, 1936

Number of inspections made during the year ... ..	20
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### Housing Act, 1949

Number of inspections made in connection with improvement of properties ... ..	15
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### Food and Drugs Act, 1938

Number of Inspections made during the year ... ..	10
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### Factories Act, 1937

1.—Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by the Local Authority :—

Number on Register ... ..	5
Inspections ... ..	5
Notices ... ..	Nil
Complied with ... ..	Nil

2.—Factories not included in 1 in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority :—

Number on register ... ..	5
Inspections ... ..	5
Notices ... ..	Nil
Complied with ... ..	Nil

3.—Number of out-workers in August list required by Section 110(1) (c) ... .. 55 |

Number of Cases of default in sending in list... Nil

Number of instances of work in unwholesome  
premises ... .. Nil

### Prevention of Damage by Pests Act

No. of properties inspected as a result of notification ...	20
No. of properties inspected survey under Act ... ..	116
No. of properties inspected primarily for other purposes	302
No. of properties inspected infested with rats ... ..	16
No. of properties inspected infested with mice ... ..	4
No. of properties treated by Local Authority ... ..	15





